UNITED
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General Assembly
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A/52/760
S/1998/11
8 January 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 38, 41 and 83
SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO
PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR
RESTORED DEMOCRACIES
ASSISTANCE IN MINE CLEARANCE
RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK AND REFORM
OF THE AGENDA OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 7 January 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint communiqué signed by the President of Uzbekistan, Mr. Islam Karimov, and the President of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rakhmonov, during the visit of the President of Tajikistan to Uzbekistan on 4 January 1998 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38, 41 and 83, and as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rashid ALIMOV
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

(Signed) Alisher VOHIDOV
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Uzbekistan
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

On 4 January 1998, at the invitation of the President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rakhmonov, paid a working visit to Uzbekistan.

In a frank, friendly and business-like atmosphere, the leaders of the two countries conducted an exchange of views on issues of bilateral relations, and also on regional and international problems of common interest.

The heads of State took a positive view of the progressive development of Uzbek-Tajik relations.

The Tajik side commended the experience of the economic reforms under way in Uzbekistan, and confirmed its readiness to develop further the traditional relations of friendship, good neighbourliness and mutually advantageous cooperation between the two fraternal peoples.

The leaders of both States noted that close and comprehensive central Asian integration is one of the priorities for ensuring national security and a foundation for constructive cooperation based on the common historical fates of the peoples of central Asia, as is confirmed in the Treaty on the establishment of a single economic space between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The Tajik side confirmed its interest in joining the single economic space of the central Asian countries. The Uzbek side welcomed that intention on the part of Tajikistan and expressed its readiness to cooperate in giving practical effect to it.

The sides expressed their conviction that participation in the single economic space would enable Tajikistan to engage in cooperation with the States of central Asia in line with the principles of free trade and on the basis of prices on the world market, equal economic and legal terms for economic agents, the creation of a common market for goods, services, capital and labour, and cooperation in the scientific and technical, production, investment, financial, transport and social spheres.

The sides arrived at the joint view that the maintenance of peace, stability and sustainable development in central Asia and the strengthening of inter-State and regional economic cooperation are in conformity with the vital interests of the peoples living there.

The heads of State noted with satisfaction the positive impact on the inter-Tajik negotiating process of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan, signed in Moscow, and the start of the work of the Commission on National Reconciliation.

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan firmly condemn ethnic, racial and religious intolerance.

The sides will take joint measures against any manifestations of political and religious extremism.

The sides expressed their readiness for close cooperation between the competent bodies of both States in the timely resolution of issues that arise and the institution of constructive cooperation.

The sides expressed their concern at the continuing armed confrontation in Afghanistan and the danger of escalation of the intra-Afghan conflict. In this connection, they expressed support for the efforts of the United Nations to channel the Afghan conflict into the course of political solution, particularly emphasizing the importance of implementing a comprehensive embargo on the delivery of arms to the opposing Afghan groups.

Both States will make the necessary efforts to promote the intensification of cooperation and mutual understanding, the strengthening of stability and the guaranteeing of security in central Asia. For these purposes, they will hold regular consultations within the framework of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international and regional organizations in which they are participants, inter alia on issues relating to the development of democratic institutions and to human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan will expand their cooperation in the sphere of transit and transport communications in order to serve more fully the interests of their economies.

The sides will facilitate the further development of economic, cultural, scientific and technical and other links.

Both States will continue to cooperate in the field of protection and restoration of the environment and combating the consequences of environmental disasters and anthropogenic action on the environment, including the transboundary aspect, and will pay special attention to the problems of the Aral Sea basin.

In this connection, the need was noted to establish a comprehensive environmental security programme including practical action to establish a nuclear-free zone in central Asia and combat the leakage of nuclear technologies and raw materials.

The sides will develop and strengthen cooperation in the area of combating the illegal distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, terrorism and organized crime, and to this end will facilitate cooperation between the law enforcement agencies of both States.

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan will intensify interaction and cooperation in all other spheres of mutual interest.

Islam Karimov
President of Uzbekistan

Emomali Rakhmonov
President of Tajikistan

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General Assembly
Security Council

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GENERAL

A/52/761
S/1998/12
8 January 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 5 January 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our letter dated 12 November 1997 (A/52/684-S/1997/897), I have the honour to draw your attention once more to yet another violation of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and the flight information region of Nicosia committed by the Government of Turkey.

This new illegal and unacceptable Turkish action was committed on 29 December 1997 when a Turkish military aircraft, type C-160, violated the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic on two occasions (at 1020 and 1635 hours).

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest once again the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus. I would request, therefore, that all necessary measures be taken to impress upon Turkey to cease and desist from such provocative actions which aggravate the situation in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. ZACHKEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/13
9 January 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 8 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued over the period 1 to 4 January 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-00467 (E) 090198 090198

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Annex

Details of violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 1-4 January 1998

1. In the northern region 42 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar, Baibo, Rawanduz, Kuysanjaq and Dukan.

2. In the southern region 279 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Kut, Rumaythah, Habariyah, Rahhaliyah, Basra, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Lasaf, Hamzah, Diwaniyah, Rifa'i, Nukhayb, Qal'at Salih, Diwaniyah and Maymunah.

3. One sortie was flown by United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/13*
14 January 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 8 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued over the period 1 to 4 January 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

Annex

Details of violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 1-4 January 1998

1. In the northern region 42 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar, Baibo, Rawanduz, Kuysanjaq and Dukan.

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3. One sortie was flown by United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1998/14
9 January 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 6 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward, on behalf of Chief Tom Ikimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria and Chairman of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States Committee of Five on Sierra Leone, the text of the communiqué issued at the end of the seventh meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Committee of Five on Sierra Leone, held at Abuja on 19 December 1997.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ibrahim A. GAMBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-00477 (E) 090198

Annex

Communiqué issued at the conclusion of the seventh meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States Committee of Five on Sierra Leone, held at Abuja on 19 December 1997

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Committee of Five on Sierra Leone held their seventh meeting at ECOWAS secretariat headquarters at Abuja on 19 December 1997.

2. All the members of the Committee were present, namely:

- The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;
- The Republic of Ghana;
- The Republic of Guinea;
- The Republic of Liberia;
- The Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- The ECOWAS Executive Secretary;
- The representative of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

3. Attending as observers were:

- The Republic of Sierra Leone, represented by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone;
- The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Sierra Leone.

4. The meeting reviewed the situation in Sierra Leone in the light of the reports presented by the Force Commander of the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Sierra Leone.

5. The Ministers reaffirmed the central objective of the ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone, which is the restoration of constitutional order in that country and the reinstatement of the legitimate Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

6. In this regard, the Ministers emphasized that the ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone, adopted at Conakry on 23 October 1997, remained the best framework for the restoration of peace and constitutional order to Sierra Leone.

7. The Ministers reaffirmed the date of 22 April 1998 for the reinstatement of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah to office, and emphasized the need to adhere to the timetable of the peace plan accordingly.

8. The Ministers reiterated that the Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was the sole and legitimate Government of Sierra Leone.

9. The Ministers noted that there had been some violations of the ECOWAS and United Nations sanctions imposed on the junta in Sierra Leone. In this connection, they noted specifically the violations of the arms embargo and travel restrictions on members of the illegal regime and their families.

10. They therefore called upon all countries, and in particular Member States of ECOWAS, to strictly adhere to those sanctions. In addition, countries harbouring members of the military junta, their families and all others on the restricted list were requested to repatriate such persons to Sierra Leone.

11. The Ministers were informed of the upgrading by the illegal regime of an airstrip at Mabguraka into a full-fledged airport for the illegal importation of arms and other supplies. The Ministers noted that this was in violation of the sanctions and embargo regimes and therefore mandated ECOMOG to ensure that the airstrip was not used.

12. The Ministers noted that the ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone provided for the deployment of a United Nations observer mission along with ECOMOG in Sierra Leone to implement the disarmament process. In this connection, they urged the Security Council to accelerate efforts towards the deployment of a United Nations military observer mission to Sierra Leone. They also called on Member States urgently to contribute more troops to enhance ECOMOG operational capability in Sierra Leone.

13. In this regard, the Ministers expressed satisfaction at the recent deployment of a Ghanaian naval vessel for ECOMOG to enhance the implementation of the sanctions. They called on other Member States to make available similar contributions to ECOMOG.

14. The Ministers deplored the incessant and unprovoked attacks on ECOMOG peacekeepers. They reaffirmed the right of ECOMOG to self-defence.

15. The Ministers noted the intention of the Government of Liberia to bring to an end the mandate of ECOMOG in Liberia by 2 February 1998, and they considered that this would have implications for the implementation of the ECOWAS peace plan for Sierra Leone. They therefore decided to refer this matter to the Chairman of ECOWAS.

16. The Ministers expressed their profound gratitude and appreciation to General Sani Abacha, Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, and the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the hospitality and excellent facilities provided for the success of the meeting.

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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1998/15
9 January 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE CREDENTIALS OF THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a note verbale dated 9 January 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, stating that Ms. Nancy Soderberg has been appointed deputy representative of the United States of America on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this communication constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

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UNITED
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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1998/16
13 January 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH, FRENCH
AND RUSSIAN

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its earlier relevant resolutions, and in particular its resolutions 779 (1992) of 6 October 1992, 981 (1995) of 31 March 1995, 1025 (1995) of 30 November 1995, 1038 (1996) of 15 January 1996, 1066 (1996) of 15 July 1996, 1093 (1997) of 14 January 1997 and 1119 (1997) of 14 July 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 30 December 1997 (S/1997/1019) and welcoming the positive developments noted therein,

Reaffirming once again its commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia,

Noting again the Joint Declaration signed at Geneva on 30 September 1992 by the Presidents of the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in particular Article 3, which reaffirmed their agreement concerning the demilitarization of the Prevlaka peninsula, and emphasizing the contribution that this demilitarization has made to the decrease of tension in the region,

Noting with concern continued long-standing violations of the demilitarization regime in the United Nations designated zones in the region, but welcoming a decrease in the number of violations,

Welcoming the first substantial progress in implementing the practical options proposed by the United Nations military observers in May 1996, as referred to in the report of the Secretary-General of 31 December 1996 (S/1996/1075),

Noting with concern that there has been no progress towards a settlement of the disputed issue of Prevlaka through mutual negotiations,

Recalling the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia signed in Belgrade on 23 August 1996, committing the parties to settle peacefully the disputed issue of Prevlaka by negotiations in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and good neighbourly relations, and stressing the need for the Republic of

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Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to agree on a settlement which would peacefully resolve their differences,

Noting that the presence of the United Nations military observers continues to be essential to maintain conditions that are conducive to a negotiated settlement of the disputed issue of Prevlaka,

1. Authorizes the United Nations military observers to continue monitoring the demilitarization of the Prevlaka peninsula, in accordance with resolutions 779 (1992) and 981 (1995) and paragraphs 19 and 20 of the report of the Secretary-General of 13 December 1995 (S/1995/1028*), until 15 July 1998;

2. Welcomes steps undertaken by the parties in adopting the practical options proposed by United Nations military observers to reduce tension and improve safety and security in the area, and calls upon the parties to make further progress in this regard;

3. Reiterates its call upon the parties to cease all violations of the demilitarization regime in the United Nations designated zones, to cooperate fully with the United Nations military observers and to ensure their safety and freedom of movement;

4. Urges the parties to abide by their mutual commitments and to implement fully the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of 23 August 1996;

5. Expresses its support for the commitment by the parties to a negotiated resolution of the disputed issue of Prevlaka in accordance with article 4 of the aforementioned Agreement;

6. Urges the parties to take concrete steps towards a negotiated resolution of the disputed issue of Prevlaka in good faith and without delay;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Council by 5 July 1998 a report on the situation in the Prevlaka peninsula and in particular on progress made by the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia towards a settlement which would peacefully resolve their differences;

8. Requests the United Nations military observers and the multinational stabilization force authorized by the Council in resolution 1088 (1996) of 12 December 1996 to cooperate fully with each other;

9. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/17
12 January 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN ANGOLA (MONUA)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 1135 (1997) of 29 October 1997, in which the Council, inter alia, requested me to present recommendations on the United Nations presence in Angola after 30 January 1998. It also covers developments since my last report, dated 4 December 1997 (S/1997/959).

II. POLITICAL ASPECTS

2. During the period under review, my Special Representative, Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye, continued intensive consultations with President José Eduardo dos Santos and Mr. Jonas Savimbi, the leader of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), with a view to accelerating the implementation of the remaining tasks under the Lusaka Protocol (S/1994/1441, annex). In his meeting with Mr. Savimbi on 13 December 1997, my Special Representative once again urged UNITA to complete all its obligations under the peace process without further delay. The UNITA leader complained about what he characterized as a lack of appreciation by the international community of efforts by UNITA to fulfil its remaining obligations. On 17 December, the Government proposed a new timetable for the implementation of the pending tasks under the Lusaka Protocol before the middle of January 1998. After preliminary discussions with the Government, UNITA came up with counter-proposals, which included additional tasks and new dates for the proposed implementation timetable. These proposals, together with a written message from Mr. Savimbi, were presented to President dos Santos on 9 January 1998. On the same day, Mr. Savimbi telephoned the President, and it was agreed to continue bilateral consultations in order to reach a consensus timetable. Such a timetable was presented to the Joint Commission and approved on the evening of 9 January 1998. It foresees the completion of the remaining tasks in February 1998.

3. My Special Representative has on several occasions transmitted messages between President dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi, particularly with regard to their long-awaited meeting inside Angola. The Angolan President discussed this matter

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with Mr. Savimbi on the telephone on 15 December 1997, and both leaders agreed to set up a working group to prepare for such a meeting.

4. The Joint Commission continued actively to steer the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. The Commission, together with the representatives of the three observer States (Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States of America), visited various areas of Angola to investigate complaints by the parties and to help advance the peace process at the local level.

5. The normalization of State administration in UNITA-controlled areas, which began on 30 April 1997, has proceeded at a very slow and uneven pace. The process of extension, which was suspended on 1 November 1997 owing to a lack of cooperation by UNITA, was resumed on 22 November 1997. As of 8 January 1998, central government authority had been established in 239 out of a total of 344 localities envisaged in the peace plan. It is now expected that this crucial process would be completed by the end of January 1998, at the earliest. While State administration has been extended to three strategically important areas - Cuango, Mavinga and Negage - it still remains to be extended to UNITA strongholds in Andulo and Bailundo.

6. As indicated in my previous reports, the normalization process has encountered serious political and logistical difficulties. These include lack of cooperation by UNITA militants in certain areas of the country and the inability of the Government to provide adequate logistical support. At the same time, strong accusations and counter-accusations by the Government and UNITA of gross violations of human rights has led to tensions between the two parties. The United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) has been able to verify some of the accusations made by both the Government and UNITA. Regrettably, there have been incidents in which UNITA militants were attacked, harassed and arbitrarily detained by local government elements; MONUA has been actively pursuing all these cases. In several provinces, the Intersectoral Operational Groups responsible for the normalization of State administration, in which the representatives of the Government, UNITA and MONUA participate, have visited affected areas in order to take corrective measures. These province-based bodies have become important conflict resolution mechanisms since the new authorities have been installed in various areas of the country.

7. Regarding the transformation of Radio Vorgan into a non-partisan broadcasting facility, on 4 December 1997 my Special Representative met with the management team of "Rádio Despertar", the station which is to replace Radio Vorgan. The team once again raised several practical problems that they claimed were hindering their efforts, including the difficulties related to the acquisition of premises. My Special Representative discussed these issues during his meeting with President dos Santos on 8 December 1997, as well as during his meeting with the Angolan Prime Minister. Both promised to assist in the removal of the administrative obstacles, and it appears that what now remains to make "Rádio Despertar" operational is the acquisition of the necessary equipment.

8. Since the coming into force of the new sanctions against UNITA on 30 October 1997, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) of 15 September 1993, adopted a new set of guidelines for

the conduct of its work in the light of the additional tasks mandated to it under paragraph 11 of resolution 1127 (1997) of 28 August 1997. By a note verbale of 19 December 1997, the Committee transmitted to all Member States and international organizations/specialized agencies, for their information and use as necessary, a list of 11 UNITA senior officials whose entry into or transit through territories of Member States is to be prevented by all States, and whose travel documents, visas or residence permits are to be suspended or cancelled in accordance with paragraphs 4 (a) and (b) of resolution 1127 (1997). A press release was also issued on this subject. In accordance with paragraph 8 of resolution 1135 (1997) of 29 October 1997, Member States were required to provide information to the Committee on the measures they had adopted to implement the sanctions against UNITA. As of 31 December, 29 States had replied to the Committee.

III. MILITARY AND POLICE ASPECTS

9. Since my last report to the Security Council (S/1997/959), tensions have decreased between the parties throughout the country, despite the continuing frictions between local government authorities and UNITA militants in Uige and Malange provinces, as well as in Cuango municipality of Lunda Norte Province, some of which led to incidents of ceasefire violations. In Bie and Moxico provinces, incidents with recently laid mines are the cause of particular concern, while Benguela and Huila provinces continue to be affected by widespread acts of banditry, which destabilize the security situation in those regions.

10. Registration and disarmament of the residual UNITA military personnel, which had been continuing for four months, was formally concluded on 22 December 1997. A total of 7,877 UNITA soldiers had been registered, while 7,234 weapons, including cannons and air defence guns, as well as ammunition of various calibres amounting to more than 57,000,000 rounds, had been handed over. Demobilization in situ is in progress, and, as of 9 January 1998, 1,223 residual UNITA troops had been demobilized. Although it was intended to complete this exercise by the end of December 1997, the technical difficulties, including the non-availability of government funds and support personnel and the delay by UNITA in gathering the registered soldiers, hindered the process. At the same time, it should be noted that reports persist that UNITA continues to regroup its military elements in some areas of Angola, and their presence is still visible in and around Andulo and Balundo.

11. The plan for the downsizing of the MONUA military component and for the repatriation of United Nations formed units is being implemented by the Mission, as approved by the Security Council. The repatriation of formed units and staff officers commenced on 3 December 1997, and their strength had been reduced to 1,604 as at 9 January 1998. Since November 1997, 8 military observer team sites have been closed and 15 team sites have been handed over to the civilian police component of the Mission. The present drawdown plan envisages the closure of an additional three team sites and withdrawal from seven team sites by 31 January 1998. The overall strength of military observers is expected to be reduced to 90 officers by 31 January 1998.

12. The civilian police observers continued to conduct patrols, liaise with local officials and monitor the activities of the Angolan National Police (ANP) in order to ensure its neutrality and guarantee respect for human rights, as well as the free movement of people and goods. The civilian police has also been involved in conducting extensive public awareness campaigns during the process of the normalization of State administration. In view of the persistent reports of human rights abuses perpetrated by some ANP elements, MONUA believes that it is very important to resume the training programme for the ANP on the universally accepted standards of police conduct.

13. Pursuant to the Lusaka Protocol, the civilian police has been monitoring the Government's collection of weapons from the civilian population. In view of the UNITA allegations that these operations involved serious abuses of human rights, the Joint Commission called upon the Government to suspend the disarming of the civilian population until the process of normalization of State administration was concluded throughout the country. While the collection of weapons from the civilians is vital to the consolidation of peace and security, it is absolutely essential that this exercise be undertaken with due regard to human rights and fundamental freedoms.

IV. HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS

14. With only modest resources at its disposal, the Human Rights Division of MONUA continued to monitor the human rights situation in the country and to organize public awareness campaigns. In collaboration with the civilian police, various human rights activities were carried out in the provinces as well as in Luanda. The ad hoc group of the Joint Commission on allegations of human rights violations has considered 50 individual cases of such allegations and made its recommendations to the Commission, which endorsed them on 4 December 1997. Human rights officers also participated in investigations of the allegations of the UNITA leadership that their militants and sympathizers were being deliberately harassed by the ANP. At its 4 December meeting, the Commission once again underlined the importance of respect for human rights for the consolidation of peace in Angola, and stressed the need to deploy human rights officers in all 18 provinces of Angola. At the moment, United Nations human rights observers are present in only seven provinces.

V. HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS

A. Relief and rehabilitation

15. The continuing arrival of internally displaced persons in some areas of the country remains one of the major sources of concern. Because of persistent acts of banditry in Huila and Benguela provinces, more than 10,000 people have fled from their villages to towns, including Chongoroi, Cubal and Matala. In Lunda Norte Province, approximately 9,000 persons have been displaced in the area of Calonda as a result of military activity in nearby villages. These and other displaced populations are being assisted by the United Nations, its programmes and agencies as well as non-governmental organizations, despite the lack of adequate resources available to the humanitarian organizations. While the new

1998 consolidated inter-agency appeal for Angola is being finalized, it is worthwhile to note that the response to the 1997 appeal generated only 44 per cent of the required funds. The strategy of the 1998 appeal will be to focus on emergency and humanitarian assistance programmes, with a view towards launching longer-range rehabilitation and development programmes. It is anticipated that the appeal will be reviewed in six month's time so that adjustments can be made to reflect the actual humanitarian situation on the ground.

16. In the meantime, the Government has requested humanitarian assistance for more than 3,000 Angolan refugees who have returned to Cabinda Province. The recent joint mission to Cabinda of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme (WFP) was not in a position to assess the humanitarian situation there owing to heightened tensions resulting from the military activities in the area.

B. Demobilization and reintegration

17. A total of 78,887 UNITA troops were registered in the 15 quartering areas and 7 centres for the war-disabled between November 1995 and December 1997. Under the demobilization programme, 41,796 UNITA soldiers have been demobilized (including 4,799 under-age soldiers and 10,728 war-disabled soldiers), while 10,880 were incorporated into the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA). Approximately 25,000 former troops have deserted the quartering areas. However, it has been agreed that these deserters will have the opportunity to be demobilized under different arrangements by June 1998. In addition, a total of 7,877 "residual" UNITA forces have been registered, and their demobilization is planned to be completed by the end of January 1998. The subsequent closing of the quartering areas and the centres for the war-disabled marks an important stage in the Angolan peace process.

18. Although the Government's programme of social reintegration of demobilized soldiers was adopted in August 1996, the services of the Social and Counselling Programme (SeCoR) for the demobilized, the quick impact projects and vocational training have been available in all provinces only for the last six months. By the end of 1997, some 16,000 former soldiers had been registered by SeCoR. The second instalment of cash subsidies was distributed by the Government to approximately 6,500 ex-combatants. The second ration of food assistance was provided to 5,500 former soldiers by WFP, and some 2,000 demobilized soldiers are currently involved in quick impact projects, while another 3,000 soldiers are participating in vocational training. In addition, the ex-combatants have received 1,800 professional tool kits. The main constraints encountered by this programme are the delays in the delivery of government subsidies, confiscations by unauthorized personnel of demobilization documents of ex-combatants and the fact that main groups of ex-soldiers are concentrated in the areas that were not originally chosen by them as final destination points. SeCoR will be reviewed in the beginning of 1998.

C. Demining

19. The scope of the mine problem in Angola remains a serious impediment to the resettlement of internally displaced persons, the reintegration of ex-combatants and the resumption of normal agricultural and commercial activities in many areas of the country. The national demining programme, which is being coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), supports the activity of the National Institute for the Removal of Unexploded Ordnance (INAROE) and has assisted in the training of some 50 senior and middle-level managers who are now employed in INAROE central and regional offices. Approximately 50 demining instructors, mine mappers, surveyors, radio operators and explosive ordnance disposal technicians have also been trained. However, owing to various constraints, such as shortage of equipment and funds from both national and international sources, only 7 out of the 18 Angolan demining brigades are now operational.

20. By the end of 1997, almost 50 per cent of the country's territory had been surveyed for mines, covering the areas where about 80 per cent of the Angolan population lives. Out of an estimated 2,000 to 2,500 minefields, 1,800 minefields have been identified. As regards "level-two" mine survey, which involves mine marking, and "level-three" surveys, focusing on mine clearance, the overall progress has been limited because of the size of the country, the severity of the mine problem and the shortage of funds and trained human resources. So far, 700 square kilometres have been demined and approximately 10,000 mines out of an estimated total of 6 to 8 million have been cleared. Additional funding aimed at supporting the activities of INAROE, the requirements of which are now estimated at US$ 10 million, would allow INAROE to expand its operations and to give priority to the areas with high population concentration or high density of mine contamination and areas targeted for resettlement and development activities.

VI. SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS

21. The Angolan economy is still being affected by considerable distortions and macroeconomic instability. In 1996, the account deficit remained high, the gross domestic product (GDP) declined slightly and the fiscal deficit continued to be unsustainable. Nevertheless, the Government reduced the growth of the money supply and of the level of prices in 1997 by continuing its policy of non-payment of some wages and other domestic expenditures. Therefore, pressures on government spending linked to the consolidation of peace and the national reconciliation process, particularly those related to the normalization of State administration and to the rehabilitation of roads, bridges and official buildings, continued to be very high throughout 1997, and are expected to remain substantial in 1998. According to the UNDP 1997 Human Development Report for Angola, the values for the index for human poverty are high for all regions of Angola, with the most affected being Zaire, Uige and Malange provinces in the north and Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul and Moxico provinces in the east of the country. These regional inequalities make the northern and eastern regions extremely high risk areas owing to the prevailing poor living conditions of the rural population. In the case of Luanda and other major cities, the freeze in the payment of wages, which was lifted in December 1997, and other Government

domestic debts, as well as arrears to the local private sector, contribute to exacerbating the high level of social tensions.

22. On 12 December 1997, the Council of Ministers adopted the Government's economic stabilization and economic recovery programme, a medium-term programme covering the period 1998-2000. Inspired by the fiscal and monetary discipline introduced in 1997, this document, which was prepared with the technical assistance and funding of UNDP, provides a comprehensive set of major economic and social targets that may pave the way for the Government's negotiations with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Technical and financial assistance will be required in coming years to help the Government address critical gaps in capacity-building, statistical system development and resource mobilization, including external debt relief and rescheduling. In this regard, the preparation of a fully fledged economic management capacity-building programme, for which UNDP is providing assistance, has entered its final stage. Sweden and the European Community have expressed interest in co-funding this programme.

23. Several foreign trade delegations have visited Angola in the last few months, which is a possible indication of increased confidence in the prospects for lasting peace and social and economic stabilization. In addition to the traditional oil sector, these potential investors have explored opportunities in other sectors of the economy where Angola offers impressive potential. Similar missions are being planned for 1998. The community rehabilitation and national reconciliation programme, which provides the national framework for channelling resources to stimulate local projects, has so far been implemented only to a limited extent. The overall rehabilitation programme is expected to be examined in February 1998, with a view to assessing the impediments to progress and to rendering it more efficient.

VII. PROPOSED CONTINUATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENCE IN ANGOLA

24. Since the signing of the Lusaka Protocol, the peace process in Angola has clearly shown progress, resulting in a two-year period of relative peace in the country. Active dialogue between the Government and UNITA was maintained at various levels and has led to the formation of the joint armed forces and the national police force, as well as the Government of Unity and National Reconciliation. With the completion of many tasks by the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III (UNAVEM III), its successor, MONUA, was mandated by the Security Council to help in enhancing confidence-building and in creating an environment conducive to long-term stability, democratic development and rehabilitation of the country.

25. These tasks remain as vital and urgent today as they were six months ago, when MONUA was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1118 (1997) of 1 July 1997, with the expectation of the full completion of the mandate of the Mission by 1 February 1998. I believe that in the present circumstances the continued presence of the United Nations in Angola would be necessary, although at a reduced level. Not only would such a presence be indispensable for the completion of all the mandated tasks of MONUA, but it would also be essential

for the promotion of stability, as well as the protection of individual rights in Angola, in order to create the conditions required for the future elections. It should be recalled that, in accordance with the Lusaka Protocol, the United Nations was requested to play a special role in future Angolan elections.

26. Despite the progress achieved since the signing of the Lusaka Protocol, the Angolan peace process has proceeded much slower than expected. As a result, many of the activities of MONUA have been concentrated on the residual tasks of UNAVEM III. The three major pending tasks, namely the demilitarization of UNITA forces, the normalization of State administration throughout the national territory and the transformation of the UNITA radio remain to be completed. Also, the continuing existence of armed UNITA elements and the difficulties related to the coexistence of local authorities and UNITA militants and the need to stabilize the political situation represent serious challenges to national reconciliation and reconstruction. It would, therefore, be necessary for the international community to continue to assist the Angolan people in consolidating peace and stability in their country.

27. The United Nations, with the support of the three observer States, has played a pivotal role in helping the two signatories to the Lusaka Protocol overcome their deep-rooted mutual mistrust. I believe that their involvement continues to be very important for the advancement of the peace process. I also encourage all Member States concerned to stay engaged in helping the Angolans to achieve the long-awaited settlement.

28. Should the Security Council authorize the continuation of the United Nations operation in Angola, I propose that MONUA carry out its activities on the basis of the mandate and organizational structure approved by the Security Council in its resolution 1118 (1997), with some adjustments as described below.

29. In view of the experience of the United Nations involvement in Angola, I think it would be important for my Special Representative to continue to provide good offices to the parties and to chair the Joint Commission. He would be assisted by a Deputy Special Representative and a sufficient number of substantive staff, as well as the necessary administrative and other support staff. He would also continue to coordinate activities of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds with a view to consolidating the gains in the peace process.

A. Political and human rights components and public information capacity

30. In view of the political nature of most of the remaining tasks, it is recommended that the MONUA Division of Political Affairs operate at the mandated strength. Political affairs officers would continue to be stationed in all provinces to verify the normalization of State administration, participate in local conflict-resolution mechanisms and provide good offices. At the same time, political observers would monitor the participation of UNITA members in the political, economic and social sectors of national life in accordance with the Lusaka Protocol. Moreover, senior political affairs officers would assume the critical role of coordinating MONUA activities at the regional level.

31. As a result of the protracted conflict, Angola still needs international assistance in fostering a culture of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is significant that both parties continue to support the enhanced role of the United Nations in this area. While UNAVEM III and MONUA have monitored the human rights situation closely in some areas of the country, difficulties and delays in the recruitment of United Nations human rights observers have affected the scope of investigations into alleged violations of individual rights and advocacy programmes. Additional steps are being taken to strengthen the Human Rights Division as mandated. Under the supervision of my Special Representative and the guidance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, this component would continue to promote awareness of human rights issues and investigate allegations of abuses, which are the source of major concern. It would also assist in the capacity-building of national institutions and non-governmental organizations.

32. The current stage of the peace process demands particular attention to the dissemination of impartial information throughout Angola. MONUA efforts in this area have already contributed to the creation of an environment conducive to national reconciliation and respect for law and fundamental rights. Therefore, it would be desirable to strengthen the public information network of the Mission by enhancing the United Nations information dissemination capacity in some of the key regions of the country, which would require a modest increase in resources.

B. Civilian police component

33. Civilian police observers play a vital role in monitoring the neutrality and overall conduct of the Angolan National Police, especially in the areas where the normalization of State administration has taken place, in order to prevent the abuse of power and the violation of civil and political rights. In this capacity, the civilian police component would continue to work closely with the human rights component of MONUA. In addition to other tasks, civilian police officers would continue to monitor the collection of weapons from the civilian population and follow closely matters related to the security arrangements for UNITA leaders. With the withdrawal of most military units, the civilian police component will be critical to the building of trust and the restoration of confidence among all segments of the population.

34. The mandated strength of the civilian police component currently stands at 345 observers, who are deployed at 46 team sites throughout the country and at headquarters in Luanda. Once military observers are withdrawn from most of the team sites, it is proposed that the total number of civilian police locations be increased. This is necessitated by the prevailing tense situation in some areas of the country. Therefore, in principle, I would recommend an increase in the overall strength of the civilian police component, which would allow MONUA to cope with the growing activities in this vital area. To address the most immediate needs, a moderate increase in the strength of the civilian police would be required during the next two months. In view of the importance of the civilian police operations, their logistical support has to be substantially reinforced. To the extent possible, the military component will provide assistance and support as required to the civilian police.

C. Military component

35. As members of the Security Council are aware, the overall security situation in many parts of Angola remains precarious. In order to enable the United Nations and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to carry out their mandated tasks in an environment of confidence and safety, it would be crucial to retain in the Mission a military task force composed of up to four infantry companies, whose total strength, including appropriate support troops, would be up to 910 personnel, a significant reduction from the present level (see annex). These companies would be deployed in strategically important regions and would be adequately equipped to respond to the challenging security needs. This small force would also assist in the accomplishment of the residual military tasks, including the demobilization of former UNITA personnel and the collection of their weapons and ammunition, as well as the monitoring of the free movement of goods and people throughout the country. In this context, the retention of the military helicopter unit would be vital for effective and rapid intervention, as well as for medical and other emergency evacuation purposes.

36. The proposed organizational structure of the military task force would require adequate command and support, which could be limited to 45 military staff officers deployed at force/regional headquarters. The 90 military observers who would be retained in the Mission would continue to investigate ceasefire violations, troop movements, the presence of UNITA armed elements and the discovery of weapons caches, as well as to monitor the dismantling of UNITA command posts. The remaining personnel of the military component of MONUA would be withdrawn from Angola by the beginning of February 1998.

D. Humanitarian component

37. As indicated in my previous report to the Security Council of 4 December 1997 (S/1997/959), the activities of the Demobilization and Reintegration Office of this component will require assessed budget funding through March 1998 to ensure that the programmes are completed in a timely manner. The remaining humanitarian functions would continue to be undertaken through donor funding.

E. Administrative component

38. Since my last report to the Security Council (S/1997/959), the administrative component of the Mission has continued to carry out simultaneously several key tasks, including the withdrawal of formed military units, the relocation and reconfiguration of a number of MONUA team sites and the closure of quartering areas. These new activities, in addition to those of maintaining and supporting the Mission, which is deployed over the vast territory of Angola and is operating in an extremely difficult environment, have considerably strained the material and human resources of MONUA, which need to be strengthened. Sufficient resources will also be required to proceed with the liquidation process of UNAVEM III, which is behind schedule owing to the need to address other pressing logistical tasks.

39. To continue to support crucial programmes of MONUA and to ensure its effective operation, the replacement of a considerable amount of obsolete equipment, in particular computers and vehicles, would be absolutely necessary. Equally, it is strongly recommended to retain the services of heavy-lift aircraft until the final withdrawal of all United Nations formed military units. At the same time, authorization for increased helicopter operations would be required in view of various unexpected activities, including those related to demobilization and normalization of State administration. Some additional resources would also be required for the maintenance and upgrading of the team sites.

VIII. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

40. In the light of the delays in the peace process, the increase in the responsibilities of MONUA and the additional requirements for its operation, an addendum to the present report containing the cost implications will be issued separately. Given the advanced stage of the peace process, I appeal to the two parties to provide additional financial and in-kind contributions to various activities associated with the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, in particular with the extension of State administration.

IX. OBSERVATIONS

41. Despite the extensive efforts undertaken by the Angolan parties themselves towards the consolidation of peace in their country and the continued assistance provided by the international community, certain important tasks remain to be completed in order to conclude the peace process in Angola. While significant progress has no doubt been achieved towards this goal, and the Government and UNITA continue to express their willingness to fulfil their remaining obligations, persistent delays in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol continue to be a source of serious concern.

42. There is an urgent need for both parties, but in particular UNITA, to display a greater sense of urgency in carrying out the Lusaka agreements and the relevant Security Council resolutions. It is obvious that additional effort should be made to complete without procrastination the key aspects of the peace process: full normalization of State administration throughout the country, including the areas of Andulo and Bailundo; demobilization of UNITA troops; and transformation of the UNITA radio into a non-partisan facility. In addition, UNITA has to take decisive steps towards its transformation into a purely political party, declare that it has no more armed personnel or weapons under its control and move its leadership to Luanda. Equally, the international community is expecting that the Government will foster a climate of confidence so that the peace process can continue in an atmosphere of trust and security.

43. While the presence of the United Nations in Angola is much needed to implement the remaining provisions of the Lusaka Protocol and to enhance confidence in this war-torn nation, I believe that the extension of the MONUA mandate should take into account the real commitment of both parties to respect their obligations and to expedite the peace process. In this connection, I

welcome the agreement reached on 9 January 1998 on the new implementation timetable, which envisages that major progress should be achieved by the end of February 1998 when the UNITA leadership has promised to install itself in Luanda and transfer its two strongholds to the control of State administration. Having the above developments in mind, I recommend that the mandate of MONUA be extended for three months, until 30 April 1998, as outlined in section VII above.

44. I also welcome the ongoing contacts between the two parties concerning the meeting inside Angola of President dos Santos and Dr. Savimbi. I continue to believe that such a meeting should be held in the near future, as it could enhance mutual confidence and contribute significantly to the prospects of national reconciliation, reconstruction of the country and movement towards democracy.

45. In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute to my Special Representative and to all staff of MONUA, as well as to the personnel of United Nations programmes, funds and agencies and non-governmental organizations for their commendable work under challenging conditions. I also wish to express my appreciation to the three observer States, to their representatives in Angola and to all Member States for their unfailing support to the Angolan peace process.

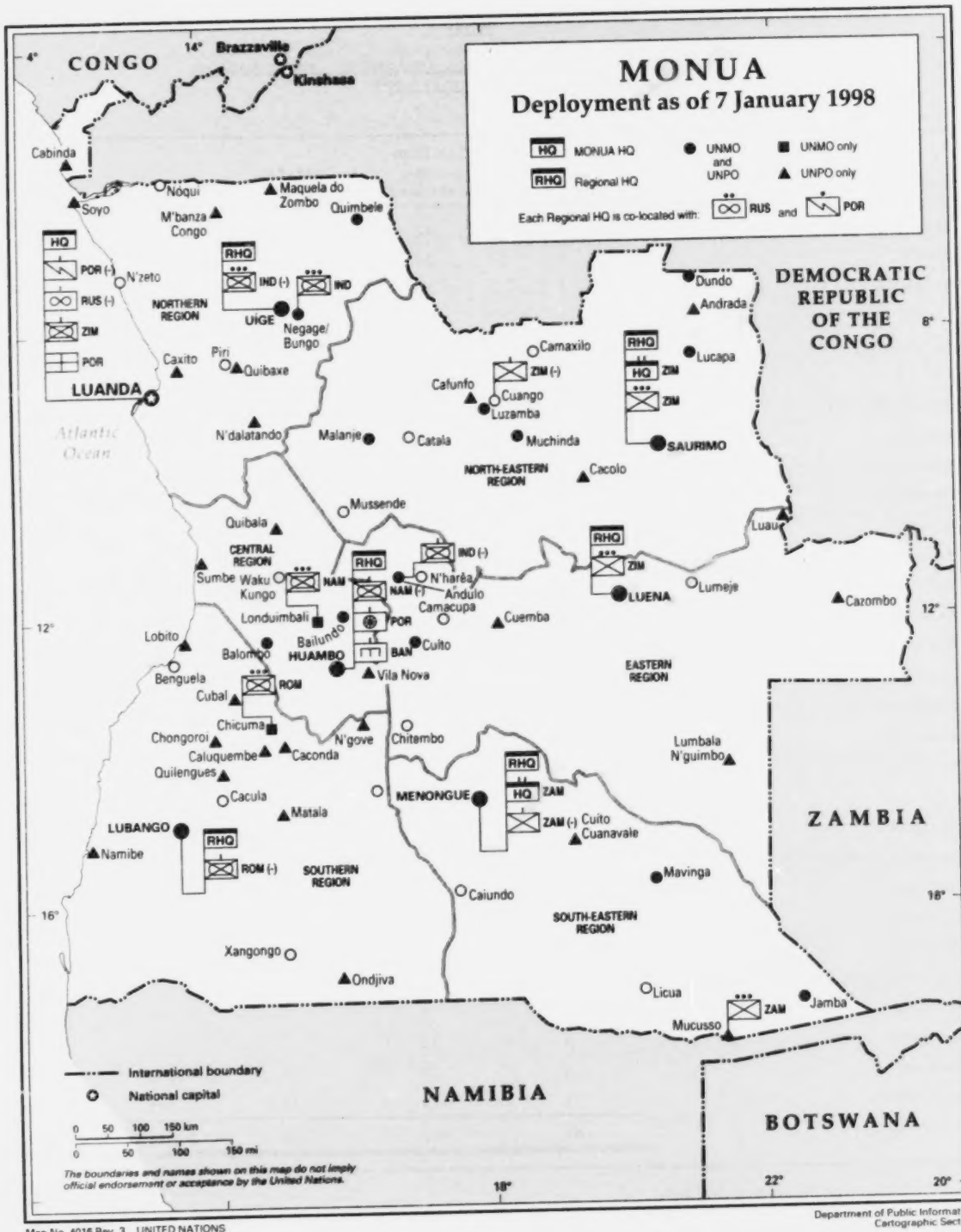
Annex

United Nations Observer Mission in Angola: contributions as at 7 January 1998

Country	Military observers	Civilian police observers	Staff officers[a]	Troops	Total
Bangladesh	9	22	3	90	124
Brazil	5	20	-	-	25
Bulgaria	3	19	-	-	22
Congo, Republic of the	3	-	-	-	3
Egypt	10	19	-	-	29
France	3	-	-	-	3
Guinea-Bissau	3	4	-	-	7
Hungary	3	7	-	-	10
India	18	22	16	150	206
Jordan	4	26	-	-	30
Kenya	10	-	-	-	10
Malaysia	4	24	-	-	28
Mali	9	20	-	-	29
Namibia	-	-	-	192	192
New Zealand	4	-	-	-	4
Nigeria	4	20	-	-	24
Norway	4	-	-	-	4
Pakistan	3	-	1[b]	-	4
Poland	4	-	-	-	4
Portugal	5	38	6	303	352
Romania	-	-	-	150	150
Russian Federation	3	-	-	129	132
Senegal	10	-	-	-	10
Slovakia	5	-	-	-	5
Sweden	3	19	-	-	22
United Republic of Tanzania	-	3	-	-	3
Ukraine	3	5	-	-	8
Uruguay	3	22	-	-	25
Zambia	8	32	5	196	241
Zimbabwe	4	39	15	348	406
Total	147	361	46	1 558	2 112

[a] Including military police.

[b] Including a military specialist in the demining school and in quartering area administration.


MONUA
Deployment as of 7 January 1998
HQ MONUA HQ
RHQ Regional HQ
UNMO and UNPO
UNMO only
UNPO only
Each Regional HQ is co-located with: RUS and POR
CONGO
Brazzaville
Kinshasa
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
ZAMBIA
NAMIBIA
BOTSWANA
Atlantic Ocean
Cabinda
Soyo
Noqui
Maquela do Zombo
Quimbele
M'banza Congo
N'zeto
NORTHERN REGION
UIGE
Negage/ Bungo
Caxito
Piri
Quibaxe
LUANDA
N'dalatando
Malanje
Catala
Camaxilo
Cafunfo
Cuango
Luzamba
Muchinda
Dundo
Andrada
Lucapa
SAURIMO
NORTH-EASTERN REGION
Cacolo
Mussende
Quibala
CENTRAL REGION
Sumbe
Waku Kungo
Londuimbali
Bailundo
HUAMBO
Lobito
Balombo
Benguela
Cubal
Chicuma
Chongoroi
Caluquembe
Caconda
Quilengues
Cacula
Matala
N'gove
Chitembo
N'harêa
Andulo
Camacupa
Cuemba
Luau
Lumeje
LUENA
Cazombo
EASTERN REGION
Cuito
Vila Nova
MENONGUE
Cuito Cuanavale
Lumbala N'guimbo
LUBANGO
Namibe
SOUTHERN REGION
Caiundo
Mavinga
SOUTH-EASTERN REGION
Xangongo
Ondjiva
Licua
Mucusso
Jamba
International boundary
National capital
0 50 100 150 km
0 50 100 150 mi
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Map No. 4016 Rev. 3 UNITED NATIONS
January 1998
Department of Public Information
Cartographic Section

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/17/Add.1
27 January 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN ANGOLA

Addendum

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 52/8 of 31 October 1997, appropriated the amount of $155 million gross for the operation of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998. This was based on the retention of 170 military contingent personnel for the period beginning 1 January 1998, as indicated in my report of 23 September 1997 (A/52/385).

2. With reference to paragraph 40 of my main report, dated 12 January 1998 (S/1998/17), I wish to inform the Security Council that, as a result of delays in the peace process resulting in an increase in the responsibilities of MONUA and the need for additional requirements for its operation, it is estimated that the additional cost for the operation of the Mission for the three-month mandate extension recommended in paragraph 43 of my report will be approximately $10 million. A breakdown of the estimated requirements is provided for information purposes, by main categories of expenditure, in the annex to the present addendum.

3. The estimate provides for the retention of an additional 785 military contingent personnel and 4 military observers as well as the deployment of an additional 37 international civilian staff, 70 locally recruited staff and 10 United Nations volunteers.

4. Should the Council decide to extend the mandate of MONUA and concur with my recommendation, as contained in paragraph 35 of the main report, the additional requirements referred to in paragraph 2 above and other requirements attributable to the delay in the repatriation of military personnel will be sought from the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-second session.

/...

98-01769 (E) 280198

Annex

United Nations Observer Mission in Angola

Additional requirements for the three-month period beginning 1 February 1998

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	Cost estimate
Military personnel costs	5 370
Civilian personnel costs	815
Premises/accommodation	400
Infrastructure repairs	-
Transport operations	1 215
Air operations	1 475
Naval operations	-
Communications	90
Other equipment	335
Supplies and services	210
Election-related supplies and services	-
Public information programmes	-
Training programmes	-
Mine-clearing programmes	-
Disarmament and demobilization programmes	-
Air and surface freight	-
Staff assessment	90
Total	10 000

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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1998/18
12 January 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE CREDENTIALS OF THE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF COSTA RICA ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 6 January 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations, stating that Ms. Ana Patricia Chaves has been appointed alternate representative of Costa Rica on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this communication constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

98-00547 (E) 120198

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/19
12 January 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 9 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I should like to call the attention of the Security Council to two matters on which there has been extensive discussion and comment in media and official circles in recent days.

1. There is the issue of the United States national Richard Bliss, who was accused of spying in the Russian Federation, was released on parole by the Russian authorities on humanitarian grounds in order to spend the Christmas holidays with his family in California and failed to return to the Russian Federation at the agreed time to stand trial. In this connection, the news media (e.g. the Associated Press on 8 January 1998) quoted a United States official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, as saying that forcing Mr. Bliss to return to the Russian Federation for trial would have been impossible because there is no extradition treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation.

2. There is the issue of the Rwandan clergyman Elizaphan Ntakirutimana, who is being sought by Rwanda and by the International Tribunal for Rwanda (established by the Security Council) on charges of having been involved in the inter-ethnic war crimes committed in Rwanda in 1994. Marcel C. Notzon, the Federal magistrate-judge in Laredo, Texas, who was considering his extradition, released him on grounds that the 1996 agreement between the United States of America and the International Tribunal for Rwanda was unconstitutional. (See The New York Times for 30 December 1997.)

I call the Security Council's attention to these two cases and request it to take good note of them while observing that they are, needless to say, merely two further instances in which it is abundantly clear that the United States of America is pursuing a policy of the double standard. If this were not the case, then how could the United States Administration fail to recognize that Libyan nationals, such as the two who are merely suspected of involvement in the regrettable Pan Am flight 103 incident at Lockerbie, have the constitutional, legal and humanitarian right, as conferred by such international agreements as

the 1971 Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Civil Aviation and by the principles of human rights, to be tried by the Libyan judicial system, namely the natural jurisdiction? At the same time, it confers this same right on its own nationals and even on those who are not its nationals.

It has become well known that there are no reciprocal agreements between Libya and the two countries involved in this issue.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abuzed Omar DORDA
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/763
S/1998/20
12 January 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 9 January 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the civilian inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in December 1997.

1 December 1997

At 1530 hours Israeli military aircraft made medium-altitude overflights of the Iqlim al-Tuffah area and carried out a number of mock attacks.

At 1830 hours the environs of Shaqra, Bra'shit and Majdal Silm came under Israeli artillery bombardment. Some 15 shells of various calibres fell in the area.

At 1915 hours Israeli military aircraft made medium-altitude overflights of the Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, Kafr Dijjal, Zawtar al-Sharqiya and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah areas and along the Litani river.

At 2300 hours the environs of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under Israeli artillery bombardment and bursts of machine-gun fire.

2 December 1997

At 0300 hours the bombardment of the environs of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Kafr Rumman and the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks ceased.

At 2030 hours the environs of Mayfadun and the Shukin - Kafr Dijjal road came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 2155 hours Israeli military aircraft made overflights of the Maydun, Ayn al-Tinah, Libbaya, Zillaya, Qilya and Jabal Abi Rashid areas and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

5 December 1997

At 0145 hours Israeli military aircraft made medium-altitude overflights of the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas and carried out mock attacks.

At 1830 hours the environs of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddathah and Bra'shit came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

During the night of 4/5 December 1997, Israeli forces surrounded the town of Kafr Killa in the Marj Uyun district and prevented citizens from entering or leaving it for security reasons.

At 1830 hours the Lebanese Red Cross took Nabil Habib Baydun from Bint Jubayl to al-Najm hospital in Tyre. He had received head injuries from armed men belonging to the Lahad militia. His family house in Bint Jubayl was set on fire.

During the night of 5/6 December 1997, the environs of Sfariyah, Anan and Kafr Falus came under Israeli artillery fire of various calibres, which continued until 0900 hours on 6 December 1997.

6 December 1997

At 0400 hours the environs of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 1145 hours the environs of Luwayzah, Jarju', Jba', Arabsalim, Ayn Bu Siwar, the Mlita hills and Jabal Safi came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 1400 hours Israeli military aircraft made two successive attacks on the Mlita hills, Jabal Safi and the environs of Luwayzah, firing two air-to-ground missiles. The same aircraft made numerous medium-altitude overflights of the area and continued an intermittent bombardment of the environs of the above-mentioned areas until they withdrew from the airspace at 1545 hours.

At 2030 hours the environs of Tibnin, Haddathah, Ayta al-Jabal, Bra'shit, Haris, Kafra and Yatar came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

7 December 1997

At 1450 hours Israeli military aircraft made low-altitude overflights of Sidon and the nearby camps and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1730 hours the environs of Jba', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jarju', Arabsalim, the Mlita hills, Jabal Safi and areas along the Zahrani river came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

8 December 1997

At 1820 hours in Marimin, the environs of Yatar, Jibal al-Butm and Zibqin, an unknown party blew up a centre which was under construction. It consisted of two rooms and their appurtenances and belonged to the Nepalese forces working with the international emergency forces.

9 December 1997

At 0350 hours the Israeli forces fired a number of missiles and shells from medium-calibre weapons in the direction of the environs of the Dabshah - Ali At Tahir - Qasr Ghandur triangle in the Nabatiyah al-Fawqa district.

Between 0900 and 1100 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew over the areas of Tibnin, Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah and Sidon at high altitudes.

At 2110 hours the environs of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

10 December 1997

At 0155 hours the Israeli forces fired a number of artillery shells from their post in Tallat al-Dabché on the environs of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Qasr Ghandur.

At 1915 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew over the area of Sidon East at high altitudes.

11 December 1997

At 0445 hours an Israeli military launch at sea off the coast at Ra's al-Ayn fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons in various directions.

At 1300 hours the Israeli forces fired a number of artillery shells on areas along the Litani river.

13 December 1997

At 1900 hours Israeli military aircraft made medium-altitude overflights of Nabatiyah and Tyre.

14 December 1997

Between 1450 and 1520 hours the Israeli forces sporadically fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre machine-guns towards the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah and the environs of Arnun.

15 December 1997

Between 1900 and 1910 hours Israeli military aircraft twice attacked the Na'imah hills and fired two missiles. They were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

16 December 1997

At 0820 hours the Israeli forces fired a number of artillery shells on the environs of Haddathah.

17 December 1997

At 1330 hours Israeli military aircraft made high-altitude overflights of Nabatiyah.

At 2130 hours the environs of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

18 December 1997

At 0945 hours Israeli military aircraft made repeated low-altitude overflights of the Iqlim al-Tuffah area and carried out mock attacks.

19 December 1997

At 0500 hours the Israeli forces fired a number of artillery shells on the environs of Haddathah and Sribbin.

At 1235 hours areas along the Litani river towards Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and the environs of 'Alman and Bra'shit came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

20 December 1997

At 0135 hours the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah, the environs of Kafr Rumman and Jabal ar Rafi' came under Israeli artillery bombardment and bursts of machine-gun fire from medium-calibre weapons.

21 December 1997

At 1115 hours Israeli military aircraft made medium-altitude overflights of Nabatiyah and carried out mock attacks over the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

At 2154 hours the environs of Mansuri, Majdal Zun, and Al 'Izziyah in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery bombardment. At 2210 the bombardment was extended to include the environs of Zibqin, Jibal al-Butm and Siddiqin. It continued sporadically until 2220 hours.

22 December 1997

Between 0530 and 0630 hours the environs of Zibqin, Jibal al-Butm, Majdal Zun and Mansuri came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 1330 hours Israeli military aircraft made low-altitude overflights of the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

At 1500 hours Israeli military aircraft made low-altitude overflights of the Nabatiyah area.

At 1730 hours Israeli military aircraft resumed their low-altitude overflights of the Nabatiyah area.

23 December 1997

At 0500 hours the environs of Arabsalim, Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Wadi Kafr Fila, Jba', the Mlita hills and Jabal Safi came under Israeli artillery bombardment. At the same time, Israeli military aircraft made low-altitude overflights of the same areas. The bombardment ceased at 1030.

24 December 1997

At 1700 hours the environs of Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, Tulin, Wadi al-Qaysiyah, Jumayjimah, Safad al-Battikh, Shaqra and Bra'shit came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

25 December 1997

At 0930 hours the environs of Mansuri in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

At 1100 hours the environs of Mansuri and Majdal Zun came under Israeli artillery bombardment which caused material damage to some of the houses in Majdal Zun.

26 December 1997

At 0400 hours the environs of Majdal Silm came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

Between 1100 and 1700 hours the environs of Jba', Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Arabsalim, the Mlita hills and Jabal Safi came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

27 December 1997

At 1800 hours the environs of Jba', Jarju' and Ayn Bu Siwar came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

28 December 1997

At 1540 hours Israeli military aircraft made two successive attacks on the Mlita hills and Luwayzah. At 1650 hours they attacked the Mlita hills.

At 1545 hours Israeli military aircraft made low-altitude overflights of Sidon and the nearby camps and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1900 hours Israeli military aircraft overflew Jiyah, Sa'diyat and Damur in the Shuf district and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

29 December 1997

At 1830 hours the environs of Arabsalim, Jarju', Jba', Ayn Bu Siwar, the Mlita hills and Jabal Safi came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

30 December 1997

At 1200 hours the environs of Arabsalim, Jarju', Jba', Ayn Bu Siwar, the Mlita hills and Jabal Safi came under Israeli artillery bombardment which stopped at 1500 hours.

31 December 1997

At 1130 hours a number of artillery shells fell in Munshaqah, on the Sidon road, and in Jazzin, near the Sfariyah post. This caused the road to be closed in both directions. The bombardment stopped at 1300 hours.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and these fresh attacks and arbitrary practices inflicted on the Lebanese population, which have caused further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/21
12 January 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 31 DECEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LUXEMBOURG TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 26 December 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the peace agreement for Somalia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Louis WOLZFELD
Permanent Representative

98-00573 (E) 130198 130198 140198

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Annex

[Original: English/French]

Statement issued on 26 December 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the peace agreement for Somalia

The European Union has been following the process of national reconciliation in Somalia closely, in particular through the direct commitment of one of its members. It welcomes the peace agreement between the main Somali factions, which was signed in Cairo on 22 December, following from the agreements reached in Nairobi, Sodere, Ethiopia, and San'a. It welcomes the fact that this agreement affirms the determination of faction representatives to preserve the status of Somalia as an independent, indivisible State within internationally recognized frontiers and congratulates Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen and Egypt on the role they have played in carrying forward this process.

The European Union notes with satisfaction that the Cairo talks were characterized by a constructive atmosphere and a spirit of fairness. It hopes that the national reconciliation conference due to be held in Baidoa, Somalia, on 15 February 1998, which will be open to all political forces in the country, without exception, will lead to the establishment of institutional bodies and be a further step on the road back to peace and democracy in the country and the restoration of stable and lasting State structures.

The European Union appeals urgently to all political forces to refrain from activities that could damage the peace process or place further obstacles in the way of national reconciliation. In that connection, the European Union is convinced that neighbouring countries, along with the Organization of African Unity and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, will be able to continue to play a constructive role, particularly through concerted diplomatic efforts.

The European Union states that it is ready to help the Somalis to reconstruct their country as soon as the reconciliation process is sufficiently advanced and the general situation in the country so permits. It regrets the fact that humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organizations are at the moment having to face an unsafe situation and poor working conditions, and it particularly deplores the recent attacks on the staff of humanitarian organizations and on humanitarian installations, which have led to the withdrawal of aid workers from certain areas of the country.

The European Union calls upon all Somalia leaders to commit themselves firmly to creating the conditions needed to counteract successfully the disastrous effects of the floods that have hit Somalia, and it appeals to them in particular to ensure that there are no further obstacles to international aid.

The European Union is convinced that, in the spirit of reconciliation that has made it possible to take significant steps along the road back to peace in Somalia, all political forces and all local leaders will participate in the joint efforts to restore a climate of security and non-violence in the country and to ensure de facto implementation of the Cairo agreements.

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/22
12 January 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 18 June 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations (A/52/186-S/1997/477), I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note dated 11 June 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Tehran (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid TAKHT-RAVANCHI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-00579 (E) 130198

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Annex

Note verbale dated 11 June 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Tehran

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Tehran and, with reference to the note of 20 May 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi and pursuant to the note of 28 May 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Tehran, as well as the note of 1 June 1997 from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, has the honour to state the following:

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the assertions contained in the above-mentioned letter to constitute interference in its internal affairs and categorically rejects them.

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/23
12 January 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO
THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit a copy of two notes verbales with their attachments dated 29 August 1997, and 23 December 1997, from the Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Washington D.C. to the Embassy of Pakistan to be forwarded to the United States Department of State on the violation of territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the forces of the United States in the Persian Gulf region.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid TAKHT-RAVACHI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-00585 (E) 120198

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Annex I

Note verbale dated 29 August 1997 from the Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Washington D.C. addressed to the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington D.C.

The Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Washington, D.C. presents its compliments to the Embassy of Pakistan and has the honour to quote the attached message in two copies, the original text and an unofficial translation, received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is respectfully requested that the original text be transmitted to the United States Department of State and our office be informed of their response.

Enclosure

According to information received from officials of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, U.S. warships positioned in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman have created nuisances for Iranian vessels on the following dates and times:

1. On 18 February 1997, a U.S. warship intercepted an Iranian tugboat named "Sadrahoma," at the position of N2930 and E4900, which was leaving Bushehr to Khoramshahr. Then, a U.S. speed boat, having an armed crew of 16, approached the tugboat and inspected it.

2. On 11 June 1997 at 0200 hours U.S. Warship number 47 created a nuisance for an unloaded Iranian floater en route from Kuwait to Khoramshahr. Then, at the position of N293828 and E490664 stopped the Iranian floater and several forces were sent to enter the floater for inspection.

3. On 11 June 1997 at 0300 hours, a U.S. warship number 661 at the position of N2932 and E4914 created a nuisance for an Iranian floater named "Mowla."

4. On 11 June 1997 at 2115 hours, a U.S. warship at the position of N2934 and E4933 created a nuisance for the ship "Alkyenis," which was en route from port Kembla in Australia to Bandar-e-Emam Khomainy. And about 20 crew members of the U.S. warship entered the said ship and inspected it.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran protests such unjustifiable measures by U.S. aircrafts and insistingly calls for an end to these actions, being contrary to the principals of international laws.

Annex II

Note verbale dated 23 December 1997 from the Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Washington D.C. addressed to the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington D.C.

The Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Washington, D.C. presents its compliments to the Embassy of Pakistan and has the honour to quote the attached message in two copies, the original text and an unofficial translation, received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is respectfully requested that the original text be transmitted to the United States Department of State and our office be informed of their response.

Enclosure

According to information received from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 9 September 1997 at 1321 hours, a U.S. S3 aircraft (four passenger aircraft which the United States uses to detect submarines) at the position of N2930 and E4945, having a speed of 360 nautical miles and an altitude of 1,800 feet, violated the Islamic Republic of Iran's territory by flying over its territorial waters and airspace for two hours.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran protests such unjustifiable actions by U.S. aircraft, and insistingly demands that such actions, being contrary to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stop at once.

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/24
12 January 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 9 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 7 January 1998 by the Presidency of the European Union on the massacre of civilians at Rukaramu, Burundi.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) John WESTON
Permanent Representative of
the United Kingdom
to the United Nations

98-00561 (E) 120198 120198

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Annex

Statement issued on 7 January 1998 by the Presidency of the European Union on the massacre of civilians at Rukaramu, Burundi

The European Union condemns in the strongest possible terms the attack on the village of Rukaramu, near Bujumbura. It deplores this barbaric attack which resulted in very heavy civilian casualties, including a large number of deaths.

The European Union fully supports the efforts of the United Nations Human Rights Field Operation in Burundi to investigate the massacre and looks forward to an early, independent assessment by the Operation.

The European Union urges all parties fully to respect human rights, to engage in a dialogue with a view to promoting reconciliation and bringing to an end the political problems of Burundi, so that all the people of Burundi may build a peaceful, prosperous and secure future.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/25
12 January 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 12 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 9 January 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the recent acts of hostage-taking in the Gali region of Abkhazia, Georgia.

May I ask your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-00567 (E) 120198

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Annex

[Original: English]

Statement issued on 9 January 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses its strong condemnation at the acts of continued coercion against the Georgian population in Abkhazia, Georgia.

On 6 and 7 January 1998, as a result of yet another punitive operation carried out by the armed Abkhaz mercenaries in the villages of the Gali region, Dikhazurga and Tagiloni, 40 civilians were taken hostage, among them women, children and elderly persons. The fate of most of them is still unclear.

Especially worrisome is the fact that this barbaric act took place in the immediate vicinity of the deployed peacekeeping forces of the Russian Federation.

Evidently, the fragile peace and positive steps in the peace process, taken as a result of international efforts, are not conducive to the plans of reactionary forces, which at any expense are trying to retain the atmosphere of destabilization and impunity in the region.

During the peacekeeping operations led by United Nations observers and the Commonwealth of Independent States peacekeeping forces, more than 1,200 innocent civilians have been killed and tortured. Banditry, robbery, trampling of human dignity and vandalism are still widespread.

Cynical and ferocious actions in Dikhazurga and Tagiloni carried out by the Abkhaz mercenaries must be viewed as a continuation of the policy of genocide and ethnic cleansing.

There is an imminent threat that not only the population of the Gali and other regions, regardless of their creed, but the peace process itself, may become hostage of these reactionary forces, giving way to uncontrollable actions.

The Government of Georgia attaches great importance to the Geneva process under the auspices of the United Nations, with the facilitation of the Russian Federation, and to the wide international participation in this process. The Government of Georgia believes that the Geneva process is the only way for the settlement of the conflict and is therefore very susceptible to actions directed against it, no matter where they come from.

The Government of Georgia expresses its belief that the Security Council, the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and the Government of the Russian Federation will duly evaluate this crime and make every effort to prevent the escalation of tension from creating realistic grounds for reversing

the process of the return of refugees and displaced persons, and for the protection of their rights.

In implementation of the above, the Government of Georgia deems it necessary to reinforce the mandate of the United Nations observers to include police functions, to qualitatively enhance the activities of the Human Rights Office and to seriously consider the commencement of a comprehensive international peacekeeping operation.

Reasonable compromise and the efforts of the Government of Georgia to peacefully diffuse the crisis needs more effective international support.

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/26
13 January 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 12 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On orders from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 29 December 1997 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister, addressed to Mr. Richard Butler, the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Special Commission, as well as the reply by Mr. Butler, dated 8 January 1998, and the letter dated 10 January 1998, in which Mr. Aziz replied to Mr. Butler.

These letters express the desire of the Iraqi party to cooperate with the Special Commission in carrying out its mission in accordance with the principles of transparency, professionalism and objectivity. The Chairman of the Special Commission, on the other hand, is adopting a position along the lines of a policy aimed at sowing confusion in order to misrepresent the facts concerning the disarmament operation in order to maintain the embargo indefinitely.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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98-00700 (E) 130198 130198

Annex I

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 29 December 1997 from the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq addressed to the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission established by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 9 (b) (i) of Security Council Resolution 687 (1991)

I have the honour to write to you with regard to two questions linked to the principles of transparency in data, principles to which we attach the highest importance and which are indispensable in establishing trust between us and are an essential part of the professional objectivity in the activities of the Special Commission.

The two questions which we should like to address within the framework of transparency of data are the following:

1. On 21 July and 16 August 1996, team No. 155, headed by Mr. Nikita Samidovich, and the delegation of the special mission, headed by Mr. Scott Ritter, inspected one of the units of the Special Republican Guard in the area of Saddam International Airport. On that occasion, the inspection methods agreed upon on 22 June 1996 were applied for the first time, which caused a slight delay in entering the sites because of the large number of checkpoints. The attention of the Iraqi party was subsequently drawn to the fact that lorries and sedans had left the unit before the arrival of the inspection teams. This accusation was maintained by the head of the team, who stated that he had evidence to support the assertion, namely, photographs taken by a U-2 spy aircraft on 12 June and 21 July 1996, respectively. When we asked to have those photographs in order to verify that allegation, the head of the team stated that he was unable to take that decision, but would forward the request to the Executive Chairman.

To date, we have not received any reply and we have noted that one of the photographs was recently broadcast by the CNN television network in order to support the allegations that Iraq was engaging in concealment. Furthermore, the head of the team informed us that those photographs, which were eight in number, had also been submitted to the Security Council.

As you can see, the principle of transparency was not respected because those photographs were used as evidence of concealment without any possibility being given to the Iraqi party to provide information on the reality of the facts.

2. Team No. 218, headed by Mr. Scott Ritter, undertook, with the help of the Chemical Weapons Group, inspections using sophisticated apparatuses to look for possible chemical and biological agents in the sensitive sites that had been recently inspected. In one of the airbases, the team used underground-detection radar in order to search for substances which allegedly had been buried and took air samples at different sensitive sites.

The results of those inspections are of very great importance because they were obtained at sensitive sites in an atmosphere marked by constant allegations concerning supposed attempts at concealment. For this reason, we attach particular importance to the substance of these results, which are to be communicated to the Security Council, because they may reveal the nature of the repeated allegations concerning the so-called concealment and will make it possible to draw the necessary conclusions on their veracity.

I hope that the two questions that I have raised here will receive your attention and that you will communicate to us the further information requested as speedily as possible.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister

Baghdad, 29 December 1997

Annex II

[Original: English]

Letter dated 8 January 1998 from the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission established by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 9 (b) (i) of Security Council Resolution 687 (1991) addressed to the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq

I have received your letter of 29 December 1997, in which you raised certain issues concerning materials related to inspections carried out by UNSCOM 155 and UNSCOM 218.

You have asked for certain photographs taken by a Commission surveillance aircraft relevant to the finding by UNSCOM 155, which were reported to the Security Council on 19 November 1997, to the effect that vehicles had been removed from an inspection site.

During the 19 November 1997 briefing of the Council, the Commission's staff, as you mentioned, showed the members (four, not eight as you suggest) air surveillance photographs to illustrate the Commission's concerns on the issue of concealment. However, copies of these photographs were not provided to Council members. Likewise, in a press conference after the Council meeting, one of these photographs was placed on an easel to illustrate the Commission's concerns regarding the site in question. Again, no copy was given to any member of the press, although a media representative must have taken his own photograph of the photograph displayed during the press conference, because it was later shown on television.

It is not the practice of UNSCOM to provide to the members of the Security Council or to other States, including Iraq, materials which it has compiled from a variety of sources for use as a basis for the conduct and the evaluation of the results of particular inspections. This practice applies to copies of aerial surveillance photographs and it was followed in the cases to which you refer. In the light of the foregoing alone, I am not in a position to accede to your first request.

In addition to the facts of established practice, a basic principle is involved. You have stated that the purpose of your request is for Iraq to examine the photographs and verify the veracity of the Commission's finding regarding the removal of vehicles from the site. The notion that Iraq has the right to verify the materials held by the Commission is in contradiction with the relationship between Iraq and the Commission clearly established by the Security Council.

The Security Council requires Iraq to provide information and for the Commission to verify - your letter appears to seek to reverse this process. There is no basis in any Security Council resolution or decision for granting Iraq the right to verify the veracity of the Commission's findings. This is a task which is reserved to the Council should it wish to do so. Under these

circumstances the Commission should not provide Iraq with the information it has acquired, in whatever form, so that Iraq may 'verify' that information.

As regards your second request, relating to the various tests conducted during the operations of UNSCOM 218, it is likewise not the practice of the Commission to release those results - including sample analysis - unless it is determined that further investigations are warranted, in which case Iraq would be called upon to extend its cooperation with such further investigations. The Commission cannot accept that the veracity of its tests require to be authenticated by Iraq. You will thus, I trust, understand that we cannot depart from our well-established and recognized practice in this case.

In conclusion, as you have referred to the principle of transparency, I would like to recall that this principle has never been understood, in the disarmament context, to require a verification agency to disclose all the information in its possession to the entity which is subject of a verification exercise. If this were the case, it would permit that subject to adjust its declarations and position to comply with the information available to the verification agency irrespective of whether this reflected the truth or not. This would call into question whether the basic objective of establishing the truth has been achieved. As you know, the establishment of the truth of relevant matters is basic to the objective of the full implementation of paragraph 22 of resolution 687 (1991).

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER

Annex III

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 10 January 1998 from the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq addressed to the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission established by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 9 (b) (i) of Security Council Resolution 687 (1991)

I received the letter dated 8 January 1998 that you sent to me in reply to my letter dated 29 December 1997 and I have learned of the letter that you addressed to Lieutenant General Amer Rashid in reply to his letter of 25 December 1997. Accordingly, I should like to make the following observations:

1. The question of the photographs is simple: on 19 November 1997, you submitted to the Security Council and the press photographs which, according to you, represent automobiles or lorries which were transporting prohibited materials while the inspections made on 12 June and 21 July 1996 were being conducted. We asked you to show us those photographs so that we could provide explanations in that regard. In your letter, you informed us that you refused to let us see the photographs in question and you invoked a long series of pretexts in order to justify your position. You, inter alia, alluded to a principle that you invented, namely that it was not for Iraq to verify the statements of the Special Commission, but rather it was for the Commission to verify the information provided by Iraq.

First of all, I should like to state clearly that verification is a way to determine the authenticity of the photographs and the validity of the conclusions reached by the Commission and that the principle of transparency on which Iraq and the Special Commission agreed should facilitate the verification process.

In this regard, I should like to tell you sincerely that your conception of the principle of verification, as you explained it, reveals a deliberate attempt to misrepresent the facts. In the letter dated 29 December 1997 which I addressed to you on the question, I indicated that, on 21 July and 16 August 1996, respectively, inspection team No. 155, led by Mr. Nikita Samidovich and the delegation of the special mission, headed by Mr. Scott Ritter, inspected the duty station of a unit of the Special Republican Guard, situated in the vicinity of Saddam International Airport, and applied the inspection methods for sensitive sites that had been decided on on 22 June 1996. Since those methods were applied for the first time, access to the site was slightly delayed because of the large number of guard posts. Nevertheless, the Iraqi party was later accused of having allowed lorries and sedans to leave the site in question before the arrival of the two teams, an accusation which was repeated subsequently. The head of the inspection team stated that the accusation was based on concrete evidence, namely, photographs of the aforementioned vehicles taken by a U-2 spy aircraft on 12 June and 21 July 1996. When we requested to see the photographs in order to study them, ascertain their authenticity and provide explanations with regard to them, the head of the

inspection team replied that it was not for him to accede to such a request, but that he would forward it to the Executive Chairman.

Our request has still not been complied with, but we were able to take note of the fact that one of the photographs had recently been broadcast by CNN in order to perpetuate the allegations that Iraq was concealing prohibited materials. Those photographs, which, according to the head of the inspection team, were eight in number, were also submitted to the Security Council.

These facts indicate that the principle of transparency was not respected in this matter, since the photographs in question were used to spread certain allegations and the Iraqi party was not given the possibility to provide an explanation and reveal the truth about them.

In the letter that I sent to you there is no question of verification. The matter is simple. You submitted the photographs to the members of the Security Council; none of them is able to state precisely what those photographs represent. You presented those same photographs to representatives of the press, who know no more about them. Only the Iraqi party is able to provide explanations, but you refuse to show it the photographs, all the while reiterating your accusations. How can you interpret your position as constructive?

2. Inspection team No. 218, headed by Mr. Scott Ritter, used sophisticated apparatuses to try to find traces of chemical and biological agents at the sites that it inspected. In my letter dated 29 December 1997, we requested you to inform us and to inform the Security Council of the results of those searches. You refused to comply with our request and attempted to justify your position by stating that it was for the Special Commission to verify the information provided by Iraq. How can you interpret this position as constructive?

3. I reiterate what I said in the letter that I addressed to you on 8 January 1998, namely that General Amer Rashid, in his letter addressed to you on 21 December 1997, requested only a copy of the English translation of the Arabic version of the documents which had been transmitted by Iraq to the Special Commission. What problem could be caused by giving us those documents translated into English, which would enable us to complete our file at upcoming evaluation meetings instead of translating them again ourselves? How does this constitute an infringement of the prerogatives of the Special Commission or a change in its work procedure? What are you seeking to achieve through your refusal?

In raising these questions, I do not understand your attitude or what it seeks to achieve. In actual fact, it serves only to perpetuate the policy aimed at continuing the confusion with regard to the real state of affairs concerning the disarmament operation and maintaining the embargo indefinitely. I have been forced to distribute to the members of the Security Council copies of the correspondence that we have exchanged in order to enable them to see the methods

that you are using in order to deal with these questions, which require transparency, cooperation and good faith in the search for the truth through objective means.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister

Baghdad, 10 January 1998